

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 CPR-01 L-03 PPT-01 /022 W

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P 090709Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5750

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1149

FOR: EUR/EE AND VO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, OTRA, HU

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA FACILITATION

REF: 75 BUDAPEST 4155, STATE 012013, BUDAPEST 0200, BUDAPEST

0865, STATE 072629, APPA 22 CFR 41.20 NOTE 2

1. GOH-USG EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA
FACILITATION WAS COMPLETED ON APRIL 7.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF HUNGARIAN MFA APRIL 7 NOTE VERBALE
NO. U/4/5-2/1976 FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROPOSAL CONCERNING VISA FACILITATION PRESENTED BY
THE EMBASSY IN ITS NOTE NO. 79, DATED MARCH 29, 1976. THE MFA OF THE
HPR AGREES WITH THE EMBASSY'S ABOVE PROPOSAL AND PREPARES ITSELF, TOO,

AS OF APRIL 7, 1976, FOR ISSUANCE IN 7 DAYS OF VISAS TO HOLDER OF US
DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS ARRIVING IN HUNGARY FOR OFFICIAL
BUSINESS WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BUDAPEST OR OTHER OFFICIAL DUTY,
TO ENABLE THEM TO ENTER OR TRANSIT HUNGARY. THE SAME JUDGEMENT
WILL APPLY TO "COURTESY" VISA APPLICATIONUBPIJMNITED STATES
CITIZENS WHO DESIRE TO MAKE PERSONAL VISITS TO UNITED STATES
CITIZENS ASSIGNED IN HUNGARY, HOLDING US DIPLOMATIC OR
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OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. THE MFA OF THE HPR CONSIDERS THE EXCHANGE

OF NOTES BETWEEN THE MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY AS AN OFFICIAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED FOR VISA FACILITATION. THE MFA OF THE HPR TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO THE EMBASSY THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

3. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THE PORTION OF THE AGREEMENT RELATING TO RECIPROCAL SEVEN-DAY ISSUANCES IS CLEAR, AND WILL BEGIN TO PROCESS HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA APPLICATIONS ACCORDINGLY. AS NOTED IN PARA 6 OF 75 BUDAPEST 4155, WE WILL ROUTINELY SEND VISAS BEAR

MESSAGES (WITH PRIORITY PRECEDENCE) REQUESTING ISSUANCE AUTHORITY FROM

THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, AND STATING EMBASSY WILL ISSUE VISA AT THE END OF THAT TIME UNLESS DEPARTMENT DIRECTS OTHERWISE.

4. THE USG PROPOSAL ALSO CONTAINED IMPORTANT PROVISIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS IN LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS (EVEN IMMEDIATELY) IN URGENT

CASES, PROVIDED VISAS HORSE TRAVEL DATA WERE PROVIDED. WHILE MFA'S NOTE "ACKNOWLEDGES" THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL OF EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 79, HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE DOES NOT MENTION LESS-THAN-SEVEN-DAYS PROVISIONS.

5. EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT FROM MFA AFTER HIS RETURN FROM UPCOMING LONDON CONSULAR CONFERENCE. CONSUL WILL REMIND HUNGARIANS THAT PIOR TO THE NOTE EXCHANGE MFA AGREED VERBALLY TO THE USG'S ENTIRE VISA FACILITATION PROPOSAL. WHILE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT OMISSION OF RECIPROCAL LESS-THAN-SEVEN-DAYS LANGUAGE MAY BE DUE TO HUNGARIAN BUREAUCRATIC OVERSIGHT, EMBASSY IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THIS ODGQFT THE CASE. THE HUNGARIAN NOTE PROBABLY REFLECTS A COMPRO-MISE BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF VARIOUS HUNGARIAN AGENCIES. IT IS AT LEAST WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT FOR ITS OWN INTERNAL REASONS GOH DID NOT WISH TO COMMIT ITSELF TO WRITING ON THIS POINT, BUT THAT MFA PLANS TO DE FACTO INTRODUCE SUCH FACILITATION QUIETLY. IN COMING WEEKS EMBASSY WILL CAREFULLY NOTE FROM HUNGARIAN ACTIONS WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE.

6. EMBASSY IS POUCHING CERTIFIED COPIES OF EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 79 AND MFA'S REPLY NOTE TO EUR/EE AND VO.
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7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM RELEVANT VISA-ISSUING POSTS OF THE NEW SEVEN-DAY RECIPROCAL ISSUANCE NORM, IN EFFECT AS OF APRIL 7.
MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

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